



# TRICARE NORTHWEST

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## Union Rep Honored with Highest Civilian Award

Judith Robertson, NHB PAO

In one of his last official acts before stepping down from the leadership role at the Naval Hospital, Capt. Gregg Parker presented a Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award to Larry Kalcso.

Kalcso, an Industrial Hygienist working out of the hospital's Branch Medical Clinic on Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, is also the Unit Vice president for the American Federation of Government Employees. The citation in part commended him for pro-

viding "his technical expertise and insightful recommendations resulting in Naval Hospital Bremerton developing a protocol that ensured safe standardized quality care with antineoplastic medication management, and expanded to include a quality control for all hazardous materials."

The citation also lauded Kalcso for his work as union representative, recognizing him as, "Communicating at all tiers of the organization and region, he forged a labor/management partnership that has embraced the mission and vision of

the hospital..."

Additionally the citation stated Kalcso was committed to going beyond the expected standard of caring for personnel and was one of the founders of a "People Council" that benchmarked how to involve all personnel in teamwork and cooperation. "His stewardship fostered understanding and cooperation, and facilitated Naval Hospital Bremerton reaching levels of customer service recognition and synergy never before seen," the award said.

## American Diabetes Association Recognizes Naval Hospital

Naval Hospital has been awarded Educational Recognition Certification from the American Diabetes Association for its Diabetes Self-Management Education program. This certification, the only one awarded to a military hospital in the Pacific Northwest, recognizes the hospital's educational program for individuals with diabetes as meeting national standards of excellence in diabetes education. The program will be reassessed in July 2003.

For an appointment in the DSME program, call the Tricare Regional Appointment Center at 1-800-404-4506 or speak with a Primary Care Manager for referral to the Health Education Dept. For more information, contact Edward Lee, RN CHES, DSME Program coordinator at (360)-475-4523.

## Medical Records Now Available on CD

Sharon D. Ayala, MAMC PAO

The recent purchase of two document scanners in the Correspondence Section at Madigan Army Medical Center now allows patients to receive copies of their medical records on compact disc (CD). The scanners

were purchased one month ago to increase efficiency within the section and to reduce the amount of paper used to produce hard copies.

"Patients can now have copies of their entire families' medical

records CDs. Up to 10,000 pages of text can be stored on one CD," said Lynnda Henson, chief, Patient Affairs. Henson pointed out, however, that patients wanting to take advantage

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## 6250th Provides Staff to MAMC Year-Round

CAPT Lisa McKenzie, 6250th USAR

Serving Madigan Army Medical Center is the goal of the 6250th U.S. Army Reserve Hospital. The 6250th is that big Army Reserve unit that works at MAMC once a month and at two-week increments throughout the year. Its mission, assigned in 1976, is to fill those positions left by active duty personnel when they are deployed away from Madigan.

It is estimated that during wartime, approximately two-thirds of the Army's medical support will come from reserve components, which underscores the importance of quality training. In 1994, the 6250th went from a 125-member unit to over 500 members when many soldiers transferred from the 50th General Hospital, which was deactivated.

To prepare for its mission, the soldiers of the 6250th work in many Madigan departments during drill weekends and on annual training throughout the year. The various departments include: Nursing, Medicine, Dental Service, Respiratory Therapy, Physical and Occupational Therapy, Social Work, Patient Administration, Medical Supply and Logistics, Pharmacy, Nutrition Care Division, Hospital Ministry, Laboratory and Blood Bank, and Radiology.

One interesting fact about the 6250th is the soldiers who come for their weekend or two-week training at Madigan from out of this area and even other states! The unit includes soldiers who come from as close as Bellingham, and eastern Washington to the San Francisco area, Montana, Oregon, Texas, Arizona, New Hampshire and North Carolina. a quick look at the 6250<sup>th</sup> leadership speaks volumes about the quality of its members.

In July 1999, COL Dominick Minotti assumed duties as hospital commander. An Internal

Medicine physician who specializes in Allergy Medicine, he is board certified in Allergy and Immunology, Family Practice, and Internal Medicine. Minotti practices at the Northwest Asthma and Allergy Center in Seattle, Wash. He is also a clinical professor at the University of Washington School of Medicine. Minotti served with the 50th General Hospital in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

The Command Sergeant Major of the 6250th is Michael Spridgen. He came to the 6250th from the 476th Chemical Battalion, Fort Lawton, Wash., where he served as Command Sergeant Major. Spridgen moved to the Fort Lewis area in 1993 and served for three years as the Senior Operations Sergeant Major for the 124th AR-COM, Fort Lawton, Wash. He then was assigned as the CSM of the 92nd Field Hospital, Baltimore, Md.

COL Judith May is Chief Nurse. May has been a member of the 6250th since 1994, serving as head nurse of the operating room and nursing office-in-charge of A Company. She began her Army nursing career with the 50th General Hospital and served with the 50th in Desert Shield/Desert Storm in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. May has a Masters in Public Health and is the Manager of Communicable Disease Services for the Snohomish Health District in Everett, Wash.

COL Richard Fixott is the chief of Professional Services. Currently Clinical Director of Teamsters Medical Center in Portland, Ore., he also works as editor of the Dental Clinics of North America issue on forensic odontology. He



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## 6250th Provides Staff to MAMC Year-Round Cont'd

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has served in various assignments as an active duty Army dentist.

LTC Laura Ward is the officer-in-charge of Ancillary Services. A Madigan employee since 1988, she currently works at Madigan as the inpatient clinical pharmacist in the critical care step-down unit. Ward was a member of the 50th General Hospital and served on active duty in Desert Shield/Desert Storm in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

1LT Robert Butzerin is the officer-in-charge of Headquarters Company. Butzerin is a registered nurse and works as charge nurse on a

skilled nursing unit at Providence Mount Saint Vincent in West Seattle. He was a 91B in the 50th General Hospital and served in Desert Shield/Desert Storm in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

The Executive Officer is MAJ Michael Winkler. He is a member of the Active Guard/Reserves (AGR) who came to the 6250th from the Readiness and Healthcare Operations (RHO) where he served as USAR personnel officer.

The men and women of the 6250th are proud of their health care mission - serving Madigan's staff and patients.



## Medical Records Now Available on CD Cont'd

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of this service must have a minimum of 50 documents in their medical records and have a computer with Windows 95.

"Patients will be able to print and view their medical records, but they will not be able to alter the information," she explained. They can, however, bring in their CD to have their medical information updated."

While it is a good idea for people to have their own copies of their medical records, Henson recommended that people with multiple health problems get their medical records on CD now, before they really need the information.

On average, the correspondence section receives more than 300 requests for copies of medical records everyday. Due to a backlog, patients typically must wait six weeks to receive their copies. But

with the addition of the scanners, Henson said patients should begin to notice a difference in the coming months.

"These two scanners will definitely help with the current backlog," Henson said, "I anticipate the reduction of the backlog in less than six months. So instead of the current six week wait, patients may only have to wait two weeks." For those patients who have medical appointments outside of Madigan, Henson recommended patients put in their seven to 10 days prior to the appointment to ensure they're ready the day of the appointment. While it's still too soon to tell, some patients have already shared with Henson some positive comments about the CDs. Military personnel who separate from the service will probably benefit the most from this service,

"Having their medical history stored on CD is a great way to always have the information available." According to Henson, Madigan is the only Army hospital currently using this technology.







## New Medical Clinic Spells Relief

Tech. Sgt. Tonya L. Keebaugh, Northwest Airlifter editor

If the walls of the old 62nd Medical Group building could talk, they would probably be breathing a collective sigh of relief right about now. Building 160, across from the chapel, has been home to the medics since 1938. The building has seen McChord Air Force Base grow up around it, and now its witnessing the love affair its residence are having with a building across the base. With building 160's walls bulging with people and equipment, the new clinic is beginning to provide the long-awaited relief the old building needed. Contractors from Strand-Hunt Construction Company began the \$15 million project in June, 1999, and will finish their palace of glass in about a week. Some of the medical group people have already moved in, and the rest will follow around Dec. 7. A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held Dec. 15 at 10 a.m. A lot of people around McChord will be glad the clinic is open, but none so much as the development director for the Med Group, Paula Case. Case has been the facilities manager for 62nd MDG for the past 15 years, but she has

dedicated the past year to overseeing the building of the new clinic for the base.

"They call her the 'mother general' around here," said Col. Suzanne Hansen, 62nd MDG commander. And like a good general, she knows every square foot of McChord's newest building, and there are about 95,000 of them.

"We have about 40,000 more square-feet than we did in our old buildings," said Case. "And we all fit in one building; before we were spread out in about 13 different places."

There's a fountain in front of the main entryway, which was bought with money from the "Year of the Family" funds.

When you walk in the main entrance, there is an airy reception area with a beautiful staircase leading up to the command section. The new Pharmacy doubles the size of the old one. The Family Practice Clinic is situated across the hall from the Tricare offices for convenience. Family Practice has 22 exam rooms. The new facility includes the Laboratory and Radiology and, of course, the AAFES espresso stand. Public Health, Bio-environmental and Flight Medicine all fall under Aeromedical Services, said Case. "And this is

the first time they will all three be together in one building." The new clinic also has nine lounges for the people who work there to take a break. "We went from zero lounges to nine, that's pretty good," said Case. There's a computer room, a big warehouse, four new audio booths, a music room, two isolation rooms for people with contagious illnesses, housekeeping rooms, lots of storage closets, tons of glass, and an elevator.

The old clinic will settle down Dec. 8 to becoming one of McChord's beautiful historical buildings as it retires from active-duty after 62 years of creditable service.

The 62nd Aerial Port Squadron is helping the 62nd Medical Group do a self-help move Dec. 7 and 8. If you are interested in helping them, please call Paula Case at 982-3261.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

